

T. Ray did not think colored women were smart. Since I want to tell the whole truth, which means the worst parts, I thought they could be smart, but not as smart as me, me being white. Lying on the cot in the honey house, though, all I could think was August is so intelligent, so cultured, and I was surprised by this. That's what let me know I had some prejudice buried inside me. (Kidd's, 20012 :97)

August's like to read the book. She likes to share his knowledge with anyone.

August 'often teaches life about Lily. August told Lily that people are so limited to express their feelings with words. As quotation below:

Did you know there are thirty-two names for love in one of the Eskimo languages?' August said. 'And we just have this one. We are so limited, you have to use the same word for loving Rosaleen as you do for loving a Coke with peanuts. Isn't that a shame we don't have more ways to say it?' I nodded, wondering where was the limit of her knowing things. Probably one of those books she'd read after bedtime during the month of August had been about Eskimo. (Kidd's 2002 :174)

From quotations above, it can be concluded that August is a caring and compassionate person. She is also a smart and wise person. That can be seen from his behavior and speech. These characteristics affect Lily. August taught Lily that women are also able to live independently and women are not always weak.

4. Zachary Lincoln Taylor

Zack is a black man who works in August's beekeeping. Besides T-Ray, Zach is a male character who is told in the novel. Zach has a handsome and intelligent face. Zach is a cheerful and nice person, because of the characteristic Lily feel to get near with him, they make a good friend to each other after they get a long together so close

“He smiled then, and I saw he had a one-sided smile. It's a feature that has always gotten to me. He had a broad shoulder and a narrow waist and short-cropped hair....if he was shocked over me being white, I was shocked over him being handsome”. (Kidd's 2002 :144-145)

From quotation above, Zach is the first man in Lily's life that treats her with respects and love, the things that she never gets from her father. The existence of Zach as the minor character in the story gives some effects on Lily's personality development through his traits. Zach works in apiary to help August run the business. He also works to earn money for college. Actually, he has to struggle for his own life, as he lives not in easy condition. That is what Lily remembers about August's information about Zach, as August said to Lily in the following:

She'd told me plenty about him. I knew she was his godmother, that his daddy had left him when he was small, that his mama worked as a lunchroom lady at the same school where June taught. (Kidd's 2002 :145)

From quotation above, zach has a hardworking nature. Lily had seen it at the bee house. this makes Lily a passion to work at the bee house. Living in such condition, Zach does not give up working. He works in the honey house for some jobs like labeling bottles and delivering honey, “Zach was spending the day delivering honey to her selling places all over town and picking up money from the previous month's sales. 'Honey money' was what Zach called it.” (Kidd's, 2002 :170)

Zach is not only nice to Lily but he is also supportive to her, one day when they have a conversation, in the conversation below Zach's statement influences Lily to struggle people for her future.

‘what’s your favorite subject in the school ?’ Zach asked
‘English.’
‘I bet you like to write themes.’ He said, rolling his eyes.
‘As a matter of fact I do. I was planning on being a writer and an English teacher in my spare time.’
‘Was Planning ?’ he said.
‘ I dont think I have much of a future now, being an orphan.’ What I meant was being a fugitive from the law. Considering the state of things, i didn’t know if I’d even get back to high school
‘After a while he said, ‘Me either’
‘You either what ?’
‘I dont know if I’ll have much of a future either.’
‘Why not ? your not orphan
‘No he said. ‘I’m a negro.’ (Kidd’s 2002 :149-150)

From the quotation above Lily said that, she does not have much For her future because of T.Ray did not support her instead he underestimates her and porbids her. But after she hears Zach’s answer about his future Lily feels embarrassed. She feel embarrassed because she feels that her burden to reach her future goal is not as heavy as a Zach’s burden for being black in white domination. The way Lily feel embarrassed show that she changes the way she thinks her future, although her father does not care or support her future dream. Lily realize that there are other people who care with her future

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the data, the writer has conclusion and suggestion related to the result of the previous chapters. In this chapter, the writer presents the conclusion of the whole analysis.

5.1 Conclusion

In this chapter, the author will conclude the problem formulation discussed in the previous chapter. This chapter will explain about Lily's characteristics, minor character characteristics and also Lily's personality as a result of the influence of minor characters.

The writer also applies the same theory on character and characterization to reveal the characteristics of the minor characters. There are several minor characters in this story, such as T. Ray, Rosaleen, August Boatwright and May Boatwright and Zach. T. Ray is an abusive and harsh person to Lily. It can be seen from his behavior and his speeches to Lily. He often makes Lily kneels on the grits and yells at Lily with a mean words.

Rosaleen in this story is a caring person although she does not show her care directly. It is shown from her reaction to Lily. She is also a stubborn person from her reaction when she wants to register to vote. August is a caring and loving person. She cares to other people such as to Lily and Rosaleen when she allows them to stay in her house. She is also an intelligent and wise person from many of her speeches. While May is a very sensitive person. She has a unique habit to save bugs

in her house with a dust pan. It is because she does not want to hurt others. She is also a caring person to all creatures in this world. The last is Zach. He is a hard worker. He is a nice person who gives support to other people. He supports Lily by giving her a note book to starts writing. The characteristics of the minor characters support to analyze the third problem formulation about Lily's personality character

From this analysis of learning from Lily's personality character, it can be seen that other people attitudes toward someone may influence his or her personality. There are many determinants that may influence someone's personality. The way people treat and give comment on someone may influence the way he or she looks at him or herself. The example is what Lily experiences form her father. Her father often underestimate her in many ways, it influences the way she look at herself. She finally feels lack of confidence and inferior. It can be concluded that someone's personality development may be influence from they way other people treat and speak to her.

5.2 Suggestion

From the data presentation and conclusions above, the writer suggests that the study of the psychological of literature and psychological approaches could be the main topic for the research in the future. The writer thinks it will be interesting, especially if the researcher compares it with another study of woman portrayal literature. This writing is still far from the points. So, the writer still needs some inputs and suggestions especially from the reader of this thesis. The writer hopes this thesis will be useful to sharpen the reader's understanding of the woman portrayal of literature and structural approaches of *The Secret Life of Bees*, so they

can understand more about the story tells social woman portrayal in South Carolina
in 1964.

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APPENDICES

A. Synopsys of *The Secret Life of Bees*

Set in the fictitious town of Sylvan, South Carolina, in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of a 14-year-old white girl, Lily Melissa Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. She lives in a house with her abusive father, whom she refers to as T. Ray. They have a no-nonsense maid, Rosaleen, who acts as a surrogate mother for Lily. The book opens with Lily's discovery of bees in her bedroom. Then, after Rosaleen is arrested for pouring her bottle of "snuff juice" on three white men, Lily breaks her out of the hospital and they decide to leave town. They begin hitch-hiking toward Tiburon, SC, a place written on the back of an image of the Virgin Mary as a black woman, which Deborah, her mother, had owned. They spend a night in the woods with little food and little hope before reaching Tiburon. There, they buy lunch at a general store, and Lily recognizes a picture of the same "Black Mary" but on the side of a jar of honey. They receive directions to the origin of that honey, the Boatwright residence. They are introduced to the Boatwright sisters, the makers of the honey: August, May, and June, who are all black. Lily makes up a story about being an orphan. Lily and Rosaleen are invited to stay with the sisters.

They learn the ways of the Boatwrights, as well as the ways of bee keeping. With a new home and a new family for the time being, Lily learns more about the Black Madonna honey that the sisters make. She begins working as August's bee keeping apprentice to repay her for her kindness, while Rosaleen works around the house. Lily finds out that May had a twin sister, April, who committed suicide with their father's shotgun when they were younger. She watches June's ongoing flirtations with, and refusals of marriage to, her boyfriend Neil. Lily and Rosaleen also get to see the sisters' form of religion. They hold service at their house which they call "The Daughters of Mary." They keep a statue of "Black Mary", or "our lady of chains", which was actually a figurehead from the bow of an ancient ship, and August tells the story of how a man by the name of Obadiah, who was a slave,

found this figure. The slaves thought that God had answered their prayers asking for rescue, and "to send them consolation" and "to send them freedom". It gave them hope, and the figure had been passed down for generations.

Lily meets Zach, August's godson. They soon develop intimate feelings for each other. They share goals with each other while working the hives. Both Lily and Zach find their goals nearly impossible to meet but still encourage each other to attempt them. Zach wants to be the "ass-busting lawyer", which means he would be the first black lawyer in the area. Lily wants to be a short story writer.

Lily attempts to tell August the truth but is interrupted by Zach, who takes her for a honey run. They stop at a store to pick up a few things. Zach gets arrested after one of his friends, who they had met at the store, throws a coke bottle at a white man and none of them will tell who did it. Zach and his friends are arrested and put in jail. The Boatwright house decides not to tell May in fear of an unbearable emotional episode. The secret does not stay hidden for long and May becomes catatonic with depression. May leaves the house and August, June, Lily and Rosaleen find her lying dead in the river with a rock on her chest, an apparent suicide.

A vigil is held that lasts four days. In that time, Zach is freed from jail with no charges, and black cloth is draped over the beehives to symbolize the mourning. May's suicide letter is found and in it she says, "It's my time to die, and it's your time to live. Don't mess it up." August interprets this as urging June to marry Neil. May is later buried. Life begins to turn back to normal after a time of grieving, bringing the Boatwright house back together. June, after several rejections, agrees to give her hand in marriage to Neil. Zach vows to Lily that they will be together someday and that they will both achieve their goals.

Lily finally finds out the truth about her mother. August was her mother's nanny, and helped raise her. After her marriage to T. Ray began to sour, Deborah left and went to stay with the Boatwrights. She eventually decided to leave him permanently

and returned to their house to collect Lily. While Deborah was packing to leave, T. Ray returned home. Their ensuing argument turned into a physical fight during which Deborah got a gun. After a brief struggle, the gun fell to the floor, which Lily picked up and the gun accidentally discharged, killing Deborah.

While Lily is coming to terms with this information, T. Ray shows up at the pink house to take her back home. Lily refuses, and T. Ray flies into an enraged rampage. He has a violent flashback which brings him around. August steps in and offers to let Lily stay with her. T. Ray gives in and agrees. However, right before T. Ray leaves the Boatwright house, Lily asks him what really happened the day her mother died. T. Ray confirms that she did do it.

B. Biography of Sue Monk Kidd

Sue Monk Kidd was raised in the small town of Sylvester, Georgia, a place that deeply influenced the writing of her first novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. She graduated from Texas Christian University in 1970 and later took creative writing courses at Emory University and Anderson College, as well as studying at Sewanee, Bread Loaf, and other writers conferences. In 2016, TCU conferred on her an honorary doctor of letters degree.

Her book *When the Heart Waits*, published by Harper San Francisco in 1990 has become a touchstone on contemplative spirituality. In 1996, Harper published *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, describing Kidd's journey into feminist theology, a memoir that had a groundbreaking effect within religious circles.

In her forties, Kidd turned her attention to writing fiction, winning the South Carolina Fellowship in Literature and the 1996 Poets & Writers Exchange Program in Fiction. Her short stories appeared in *TriQuarterly*, *Nimrod*, and other literary journals and received a Katherine Anne Porter award and citations in *Best American Short Stories'* 100 Distinguished Stories. When her first novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, was published by Viking in 2002, it became a genuine literary

phenomenon, spending more than 2½ years on the *New York Times* bestseller list. It has been translated into 36 languages and sold more than 8 million copies worldwide. *Bees* was named the Book Sense Paperback Book of the Year in 2004, long-listed for the 2002 Orange Prize in England, and won numerous awards. For over a decade, the novel has been produced on stage by The American Place Theater, and in 2008 it was adapted into a movie by Fox Searchlight, which won the People's Choice award for best movie and the NAACP Image award for best picture. The novel is taught widely in middle school, high school, and college classrooms.

Kidd's second novel, *The Mermaid Chair*, has sold well over a million copies since its publication by Viking in 2005, reaching #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and remaining on the hardcover and paperback lists for nine months. Winner of the 2005 Quill Award for General Fiction, the novel was longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, translated into 24 languages, and made into a television movie by Lifetime. The spiritual essays, meditations, and inspirational stories Kidd wrote in her thirties were collected into a single volume, *Firstlight: The Early Inspiration Writings* and published by Guideposts Books in 2006 and Penguin in 2007.

After traveling with her daughter, Ann Kidd Taylor, to sacred sites in Greece, Turkey, and France, Kidd and Taylor co-authored a memoir, *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story*. Published by Viking in 2009, it appeared on numerous bestseller lists, including the *New York Times* list and has been published in several languages.

The Invention of Wings, Kidd's third novel was published in 2014 by Viking to wide critical acclaim. It debuted at 1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list where it spent a total of 9 months. It has sold over a million copies and been translated into over 20+ languages thus far. The novel has won several literary awards, including the Florida Book of Year Award and the SIBA Book Award. It was also nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award and was chosen for Oprah's

Book Club 2.0. Kidd serves on the Writers Council for Poets & Writers, Inc. She lives in North Carolina with her husband, Sandy, and dog, Barney.